

by Bob Saydlowski, Jr.

## Bass Drum Pedals II

### DRUM WORKSHOP 5000C

Drum Workshop acquired all the old Camco tools, dies, molds and machinery, and is making a variety of drum pedals available. The 5000C relies on a chain/sprocket linkage. Drum shops have been converting strap-linkage pedals to chain-drive on their own, but DW is the first company to market this type pedal to the public.

The DW 5000C is a replica of the old workhorse Camco pedal, having twin posts, a hinged-heel footboard of forged steel, and a single expansion spring. The spring is stretched downward and is stuffed with padding to keep noise to a minimum. Tension is adjusted near the base of the framework by an elongated hex nut. Stroke may be changed to any of four different positions. A fat hexagonal steel bar serves as the axle, on which, the beater housing and the gear sprocket are fitted. Both are movable for the length of the axle; the beater housing tightened with a hex bolt, the sprocket locked in place with an included Allen wrench. The sprocket has thirty "teeth" and runs a bicycle-type chain which connects underneath the footboard.

One advantage of the chain-drive is that the linkage here is less prone to breakage (and definitely will not stretch!) as compared to the regular strap types. It's best to keep the chain greased as you would with a bicycle to insure smooth, noise-free action. The chain also allows the footboard to follow a "track," keeping motion constant.

The footboard connects to the chromed frame via two rod arms coming from the heel plate. The rods are straight for most of their length, but then, angle upward to fit into metal eyelets one-third of the way up the frame. Hoop clamping is done with the standard wing screw/plate system found on many other pedals. A felt beater is included, held in place by a T-screw.

The 5000C is a simplistic-looking pedal, and very lightweight. The action is so easy, it is like an extension of your foot. In fact, its quickness and feather response can tend to spoil you. Unlike today's assortment of "monster" pedals, the 5000C retains the idea of 'back-to-basics'—and here it definitely pays off. The 5000C also recently became available with one-piece footboards, and half-sprockets. \$119.00

### PEARL 910

The 910 is the top-of-the-line Pearl pedal. It first appeared on the market a few years ago, but was withdrawn soon after. Now, it has come back into view after some changes were made.

The Pearl 910 has a sandblasted hinged-heel footboard with an adjustable/removable toe stop. The footboard may be positioned in any of three lengths away from the framework via rod arms fitting into holes at the base. There is a ribbed-rubber piece on the underside of the heel plate to help prevent skidding. Linkage is done by a flexible strap: two pieces of leather with a nylon layer in between. Encased at the top right of the frame is a compression spring, extending upward. The spring is adjustable for tension by a knurled knob atop the casing. An adjustment scale is cut into the spring case to use as a reference point. Tension adjustment is very easily done from the playing position. At the base of the frame are two knurled-knob sprung spurs.

The pedal clamps to the drum hoop using a one-touch cam clamp lever. At the left side of the base is a stick-shift type lever with a black ball. When this lever is pulled towards the player, the clamp plate falls to the hoop, locking the pedal down. To adjust for different hoop thicknesses, the clamp plate has a knurled knob screw that lowers a cast block inside the plate. This "fattens up" the plate, setting the distance between the plate and the hoop.

The 910 comes with a felt beater set in

height by a T-screw that matches the 900 Series stand screws. One minor problem is that this height screw gets in the way of the strap a bit, making it uncomfortable to tighten.

Using a short throw, I couldn't really get the beater angle to my own personal liking without having the spring chamber almost parallel with the batter head.

Anyway, the Pearl 910 looks strong and positive, and does have a silent, efficient action to it. The clamping system is one of the best and is very easy to use. \$125.00

### ZALMER TWIN

For drummers who want to play double bass, but don't want to go through the pain of carting a second bass drum, the Zalmer Twin may be the answer.

The Zalmer pedal allows double-bass-drum patterns to be played on a single bass drum. Two split-heel footboards with frames are connected together. Each one has a single expansion spring stretched downward, and a metal strap linkage. (A new model with a leather strap is forthcoming.) The right-hand pedal assembly has two felt beaters moving independently. The right beater is activated directly by the right footboard, while the left beater is activated by the left footboard via a fat flexible cable attached to both pedal rockers. The two beaters are set to strike off-center of the batter head. In addition to the frame bases, the two pedals are connected at the bottom by a two-piece metal bar which can adjust pedal-to-pedal distance (and, thus, the curve of the flex cable). Both ends of the bar fit ratchet swivels which adjust playing angles of the left footboard.

The footboards are connected to their respective frames by a hinged steel bar which is actually part of the heel plate and is riveted into a channel at the frame base. The right footboard is set off to the right of the hoop clamp, which is a slight variation



on the common wing-screw/plate-clamp system.

Zalmer has placed the tension springs on the inside of the frames—perhaps a bit uncomfortable to adjust. Two felt beaters are included.

Action of the Zalmer Twin is easy and noise-free, and really duplicates having two separate bass drums, with no distortion of tone. The Zalmer pedal is an ingenious concept, placing the second footboard right next to your hi-hat pedal, keeping the left side of your set-up as tight as you are used to.

If you play a totally left-handed set-up (bass drum with left foot, hi-hat with right), then, unfortunately, this pedal won't work for you. Perhaps Zalmer would consider a left-handed (or footed) model. \$200.00

### ROGERS SUPREME/ROGERS SWIVOMATIC

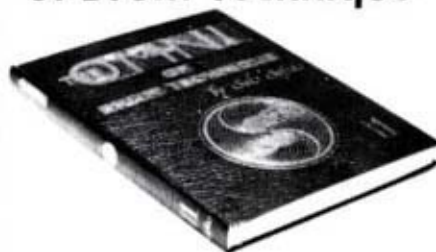
The *Supreme* pedal is Rogers' contribution to the heavy-duty breed of drum pedals. The footboard is cast aluminum with a hinged heel, built-in toe stop, and is extremely wide. Action relies on a single expansion spring stretched upward on the right side of the frame, and adjusted by a wing nut on top. A synthetic strap linkage is used. The length of the strap may be adjusted by means of four different holes, which in turn, change the playing angle of the footboard. The entire height of the beater and tension assembly may be altered via a sliding post, locked with two drum-key operated set screws. Beater travel is adjustable, as is beater height.

A cam-activated clamp locks the pedal to the hoop, using an L-bar at the bottom left of the frame. The heel plate is connected to the frame by a steel rod, which in turn, connects to a swivel. This allows the footboard to be angled to the left or right of the framework. (Rogers claims exclusivity, but Premier's PD252 also has this capability.) Metal spurs slide down both sides of the frame, and are tightened by square-head screws. Similar to razor blade edges, their points can dig into any surface and help prevent creep.

Rogers includes its *Blackjack* beater



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with the *Supreme*: a double-sided beater; one side with felt, the other a flattened synthetic (but lighter than wood). The surfaces are reversible by simply pressing down on the head and turning half-way. A spring lock snaps the beater head back into place.

The *Supreme* has somewhat of a heavy action to it, but the pedal itself is very lightweight, thanks to the aluminum. I feel the footboard is too wide and cannot allow for good control. For my own tastes, the pedal is too big. \$105.50

The Rogers *Swivomatic* is available in either one-piece or split footboards. The frame assemblies are exactly the same as used on the *Supreme*; the only things different are the footboards and strap widths. Here, the linkage straps are not as wide, and have three holes to enable different footboard heights. The footboards are

also not as wide as the *Supreme*, and are shorter.

The footboard on the one-piece *Swivomatic* can be lengthened. A drum-key operated screw is set into the heel plate and, when loosened, allows the footboard to slide up and down from the heel plate, giving a choice of distances from the frame. (NOTE: Only American-made drum keys fit the adjustment holes in the plate.) The one-piece model also has an adjustable toe-stop.

*Blackjack* beaters are included with these pedals, but have smaller diameter posts.

Both *Swivomatic* models definitely have better action than the *Supreme*, probably due to their compacted footboards. The *Swivomatics* are efficient, lightweight and simple. Split footboard—\$74.75. One-piece adjustable—\$91.25

### CORRECTION

In the June issue of MD, the photo of Mickey Curry on page 100 was incorrectly credited. The photographer was **Stacy Garbasz**. Our apologies.